

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 03903 01 OF 02 211257Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /124 W

----- 107130

R 211056Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9232

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MADRID 3903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: ARIAS NAVARRO CONCLUDES TRIP TO CATALONIA

REF MADRID 3799

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO RETURNED TO MADRID JUNE 19 AFTER FIVE-DAY VISIT TO CATALONIA, HIS FIRST EXTENSIVE VISIT TO SPANISH PROVINCE SINCE COMING TO POWER IN EARLY JANUARY. BESIDES DELIVERING MAJOR POLITICAL ADDRESS ON DOMESTIC ISSUES (REFTEL), ARIAS VISITED NOT ONLY REGIONAL CAPITAL OF BARCELONA, BUT VERY EXTENSIVELY OTHER AREAS OF CATALONIA. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SEVEN MINISTERS, EACH OF WHOM ALSO TALKED TO LEADERS IN RESPECTIVE FIELDS. GOVT LEADERS LEFT IMPRESSION THAT GOVT WOULD CONTINUE FOCUS ON INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENRY IN PUBLIC LIFE, IMPROVEMENT OF UNIVERSITY SITUATION, MAINTENANCE OF PACE OF LIBERALIZATION IN PRESS, INCREASED INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND LABOR MATTERS, AND IMPROVEMENT OF CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS. INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF PRESIDENT AND PARTY UNDOUBTEDLY SATISFIED SOME CATALAN CONCERNS ON REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES AS WELL AS, AT NATIONAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 03903 01 OF 02 211257Z

LEVEL, PROJECTING GOVT'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE

FEB 12 PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO CONCLUDED FIVE-DAY TRIP TO CATALONIA JUNE 19. APART FROM BRIEF VISIT IN APRIL TO ROTA (MADRID 2627), THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXTENSIVE VISIT TO SPANISH PROVINCE SINCE COMING TO POWER IN EARLY JAN. ARIAS USED OCCASION OF VISITING SPAIN'S MOST INDUSTRIALIZED METROPOLITAN AREA TO MAKE MAJOR SPEECH ON DOMESTIC ISSUES, REAFFIRMING NEW GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO CARRY OUT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED TO CORTES FEB 12 (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO U.S. CONGEN BARCELONA, ARIAS AND PARTY, WHICH INCLUDED TWO VICE PRESIDENTS AND FIVE OTHER MINISTERS, SPENT MUCH TIME OUTSIDE OF BARCELONA IN EFFORT TO COVER ALL FOUR CATALONIAN PROVINCES. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE OF CONGEN, VISIT WAS INTENDED TO SECURE SUPPORT FOR GOVT FROM CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN CATALONIA.

2. ARIAS ORGANIZED PROGRAM OF VISITS AND MEETINGS WITH LOCAL LEADERS BEST CALCULATED TO FOCUS ON MOST URGENT PROBLEMS FACING PRESENT GOVT. AT TOP OF LIST WAS EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT GOVT'S EFFORTS AT INCREASING POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY SPANIARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE. ARIAS HELD SPECIAL MEETING WITH DEPUTIES TO CORTES AND NATIONAL COUNCILORS IN MOVEMENT FROM PROVINCES IN CATALONIA TO WHOM HE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE WHICH CORTES HAS IN CARRYING OUT FEB 12 PROGRAM. HE REITERATED PLEDGE TO "CULMINATE PROCESS OF PARTICIPATION AND TO REGULATE WITHOUT ANY NEW DELAY THE RIGHT OF ASSOCIATION". IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH FACULTY AND STUDENTS OF BARCELONA UNIVERSITY, MINISTER OF EDUCATION MARTINEZ ESTERUELAS SAID THAT "PARTICIPATION WOULD ALSO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY".

3. ARIAS MADE SPECIAL POINT, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS MINISTERS, OF MEETING WITH MEDIA LEADERS OF BARCELONA. HE REITERATED HIS COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH PRESS FOLLOWING EXAMPLE IN HIS PREVIOUS ROLE AS MAYOR OF MADRID. MEETING HAS BEEN INTERPRETED AS HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT FOR PRESS WHICH HAS RECENTLY COME UNDER ATTACK BY RIGHT WING LEADERS, E.G., BLAS PINAR, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 03903 01 OF 02 211257Z

GENERAL GARCIA REBULL, ETC. ALTHOUGH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM PIO CABANILLAS, WHO HAS BEEN GENERALLY CREDITED WITH SPEARHEADING LIBERALIZED GOVT PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY, WAS NOT IN PRESIDENT'S PARTY WHICH VISITED CATALONIA, MEETING PROBABLY STRENGTHENED CABANILLAS' HAND IN CONTINUING THIS POLICY. MANY RUMORS HAVE RECENTLY CIRCULATED AMONG POLITICIANS THAT PIO CABANILLAS WAS TARGET OF RIGHT WING WHICH SOUGHT HAVE HIM DROPPED FROM

CABINET AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

4. ARIAS DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS. BESIDES MEETING WITH CARDINAL JUBANY, HE ALSO VISITED MONASTERY OF MONTSERRAT WHICH HAS SPECIAL SYMBOISM FOR CATALANS. WHILE AT MONASTERY HE SPOKE WITH ABBOTT WHO IS REPORTED TO HAVE ASKED PRESIDENT FOR AMENESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE VISITED MAJOR NEW CHURCH IN BARCELONA NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND TURNED OVER GIFT OF 25 MILLION PESETAS FROM SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL FUND. ACCORDING TO ONE JOURNALIST, MEETING WITH JUBANY, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS CHANNELS TO CLANDESTINE WORKERS COMMISSIONS, WAS ALSO DESIGNED TO ESTABLISH LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH CHURCH LEADERS IN THE EVENT OF TROUBLESOME LABOR DISPUTES.

5. IN APPEARANCE AT AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY ARIAS SAID GOVT WAS WORKING ASSIDUOUSLY ON PRINCIPLES AND ACTION PROGRAM SET FORTH IN REPORT OF SPAIN'S UNIVERSITY RECTORS PREPARED IN TOLEDO IN FEB. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT SEARCH FOR "NEW HORIZON FOR UNIVERSITY" IN SPAIN REQUIRED "CLIMATE OF SERENITY", EVEN THOUGH "EVERY COUNTRY AND EVERY SECTOR IN EXPANSION HAS A PROCLIVITY FOR CONFLICT." HIS APPEARANCE WAS FOLLOWED BY THREE OTHER MEETINGS OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION WITH LEADERS AND STUDENTS OF BARCELONA'S THREE UNIVERSITIES FOR PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING GOVT'S PROPOSED LAW ON UNIVERSITY ADMISSION (MADRID 2926).

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MADRID 03903 02 OF 02 211336Z

53

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01

DRC-01 /124 W

----- 107590

R 211056Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9233
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MADRID 3903

6. ARIAS AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, GARCIA HERNANDEZ, INAUGURATED IN BARCELONA AN INTERPROVINCIAL DELEGATION OF THE INSTITUTE FOR STUDY OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

7. IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF ARIAS' VISIT WERE DEVOTED TO SOCIAL AND LABOR SPHERE. FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS WERE DESIGNED TO GRAPHICALLY DEMONSTRATE THIS INTEREST, I.E., (1) A VISIT TO AN ELECTRONICS FACTORY OF 1,500 WORKERS WHERE ARIAS SPENT NEARLY AN HOUR IN DIALOGUE WITH THE ELECTED SHIP STEWARDS AND MEMBERS OF THE PLANT'S LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE; (2) A VISIT TO A VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL RUN BY THE SPANISH SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO); (3) ATTENDANCE AT A MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BARCELONA SSO WHERE HE DELIVERED A SPEECH; AND (4) ANOTHER SPEECH AT THE PROVINCIAL BARCELONA OFFICES OF THE SPANISH SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. IN THE LATTER TWO SPEECHES H STRESSED THAT (1) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT; (2) THE GOVT WOULD GIVE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO MAINTAINING FULL EMPLOYMENT; (3) THE GOVT WOULD DO EVERYTHING TO BRAKE RAPIDLY INCREASING PRICES; (4) SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE WOULD BE FURTHER EXPANDED; AND (5) THE GOVT'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MADRID 03903 02 OF 02 211336Z

LONG-PROMISED BASIC LABOR LAW WAS NEARLY READY ANT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE SENT TO THE CORTES WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. THE EMPHASIS WHICH ARIAS THUS PLACED ON THE LABOR AND SOCIAL SECTORS IS PERHAPS INDICATIVE OF THE NEW GOVT'S GROWING ATTENTION TO THIS EVER-TROULESOME SPHERE AND TO ITS IMPORTANCE OF THE BARCELONA AREA.

8. COMMENT: ARIAS HAS SEEMINGLY DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GRATIFY CATALAN SENSIBILITIES ABOUT ITS SPECIAL REGIONAL CHARACTER AND IMPORTANCE TO NATION. VISIT WAS PRECEDED BY APPOINTMENT IN EARLY JUNE OF NEW CIVIL GOVERNOR, RODOLFO MARTIN VILLA, KNOWN AS A RELATIVELY YOUNG POLITICAL COMER" WHO HAS GOOD CREDENTIALS AS AN "APERTURISTA" AND WAS UNTIL RECENTLY THE SECRETARY GENERAL (NO. 2 MAN) OF THE NATIONAL SSO, AND HAS HAD PREVIOUS WORKING EXPERIENCE IN CATALONIA. VISIT UNDOUBTEDLY GAVE EVIDENCE OF GOVT'S SUPPORT FOR NEW CIVIL GOVERNOR TO WHOM CATALANS COULD TURN TO INTERPRET REGIONAL NEEDS TO AUTHORITIES IN MADRID. IN RECENT MONTHS ARIAS HAS TAKEN OTHER STEPS TO GRATIFY CATALAN

NEED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT BY ALLOWING SOME MINISTRIES, NOTABLY FINANCE, TO SET UP SPECIAL BRANCHES IN BARCELONA. MINISTER OF FINANCE BARRERO DE IRIMO, HAS INDEED SAID THAT HE WOULD VISIT BARCELONA PERIODICALLY FOR PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING REGULAR MINISTERIAL FUNCTIONS.

9. PRESS REPS ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MEDIA. MEDIA HAS BEEN ONE AREA WHERE NEW GOVT HAS INDEED CARRIED OUT ITS WORD TO PROMOTE "APERTURA". ARIAS HAS SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT WHOLE EDIFICE OF INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENRY IN PUBLIC LIFE DEPENDS IN FIRST INSTANCE ON AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AND OPINION. ALTHOUGH SOME COMMENTATORS HAVE QUALIFIED TONE OF JUNE 15 SPEECH AS "STEP BACKWARD" OR "RUNNING IN PLACE", BY HIS OWN EXPRESSED READINESS TO ACCEPT CRITICISM AND HIS REAFFIRMATION OF MORE OPEN POLICY ON MEDIA, ARIAS HAS EARNED UNANIMOUS PRAISE FROM PRESS. THERE IS LIBERALIZATION IN TREATMENT OF MEDIA AND ARIAS HAS ALSO TAKEN TANGIBLE STEPS TO PROMOTE GREATER CONSCIOUSNESS OF ISSUE OF LOCAL GOVT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MADRID 03903 02 OF 02 211336Z

RIVERO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, CATALONIA, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, UNIVERSITIES, EDUCATIONAL REFORMS, CH URCH STATE RELATIONS, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MADRID03903
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740163-0258
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740625/aaaaauxn.tel
Line Count: 251
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MADRID 3799
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARIAS NAVARRO CONCLUDES TRIP TO CATALONIA
TAGS: PINT, SP, (ARIAS NAVARRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005